



# CCM 2015 Testimony

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## ***JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **SB 1104 "An Act Concerning the Militarization of Law Enforcement Agencies"**

CCM has concerns with this bill. While well-intended, the proposal would usurp local authority and impose state oversight into a local issue.

The bill would require that any law enforcement agency applying to a federal program in order to obtain military equipment for local law enforcement purposes, to hold a public hearing on the matter and print a public notice regarding the issue. If the local agency is able to obtain such equipment, the municipality would have to provide an inventory of such equipment to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). In addition, each law enforcement agency would have to annually report information regarding all tactical operation by local law enforcement to OPM.

Law enforcement officials should have the discretion and flexibility to execute critical decisions such as the acquisition of particular law enforcement equipment. As law enforcement have a chain of command that ends with Municipal CEOs, -- who are ultimately accountable to the residents of their community -- decisions on equipment should be kept at the local level. Local officials need the managerial wherewithal to meet the needs of their constituents, therefore if they believe an issue should warrant the public opinion through a hearing, they have the ability to ask for such input. Mandating particular actions is not appropriate.

In addition, CCM questions the rationale for why an inventory and detailed reports of particular law enforcement activities should be provided to OPM. Law enforcement are already inundated with a variety of reports, and current efforts this session attempt to reduce that workload. Mandating additional reporting would be contrary to those efforts.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.